

● PRINTER RUSH ●

(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : <u>10/623,768</u>	Examiner : <u>Jimenez</u>	GAU : <u>3726</u>
From: <u>MR</u>	Location: <u>IDC FMF FDC</u>	Date: <u>06-03-05</u>
Tracking #: <u>06100415</u>		Week Date: <u>05-02-05</u>

DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> CLM	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Document Legibility
<input type="checkbox"/> IIFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 312	_____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPEC	<u>07-21-03</u>	

[RUSH] MESSAGE: Blank ink smeared on lines 20-23, pg. 14
of specification, covering dates on those lines. ☹
Please supply a clear copy.

Thank you,
MR

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: Data supplied

INITIALS: DP

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.
 REV 10/04

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248-641-1608

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of pipe chucks 3, 3', the other end portion 32 of the pipe 20 is engaged with the punch 6 for sizing in which the recess portion 6a having a bottom portion of the same cylindrical shape as that of the pipe is formed, and the punch 6 for sizing is struck downward. Due to the foregoing, one portion of the pipe 20 is buckled, and one portion of the pipe material flows into the annular relief space composed of a pair of semicircular step portions 4, 4' formed on the upper faces 8, 8' of the chucks 3, 3'. In this way, the pipe buckling portions 22, 23, which are protruded in the lateral direction, are formed. These pipe buckling portions 22, 23 compose one continuous flange.

When the size of the pipe 20 in the longitudinal direction is reduced in this way, the difference 17 in the size in the longitudinal direction of the pipe 20 with respect to the pipe 21 can be reduced into the allowable range. The depth of the cylindrical recess portion 6a provided in the punch 6 used for sizing is shown by the reference numeral 50. The punch 6 used for sizing is lowered to a position where the punch 6 comes into contact with the upper faces 8, 8' of the pipe chucks 3, 3'. Therefore, since the depth 50 of the cylindrical recess portion 6a is constant, the length of the pipe after sizing can be made to be the same, irrespective of the length of the forward end portion of the pipe 20 clamped by the pipe chucks 3, 3'. Accordingly, when the pipe chucks 3, 3' are correctly positioned, the flange-shaped pipe buckling portions 22, 23 can be always formed at a position, the distance of which is constant from the other end portion 32 of the pipe 20. Further, the size of the pipe 20 in the longitudinal direction can be reduced to an appropriate value.

The first embodiment shows a case in which the piping is composed of the pipes 20, 21 and the connectors 16, 60. The reason why the above case is taken up in the